

Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

JUNE 30, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>6.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>3.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – November 2023</i></p>	<p>2.4 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity from April to August</p> <p><i>IPC – May 2023</i></p>	<p>488,861</p> <p>People Internally Displaced Across CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – April 2023</i></p>	<p>744,210</p> <p>Number of Central African Refugees Residing in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – May 2023</i></p>
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- Relief actors will likely struggle to reach residents, refugees, and returnees in Vakaga’s Am Dafok village with humanitarian assistance as the ongoing rainy season constrains access.
- An estimated 2.4 million people in CAR are expected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity from April to August.
- Since April, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners have delivered multi-sector assistance to recently displaced individuals and host communities in CAR affected by the Sudan crisis and relocated an estimated 1,000 displaced persons away from insecure border areas.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the CAR Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA ¹	\$88,364,716
	State/PRM ²	\$20,900,000
Total		\$109,264,716

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

15,000 People Flee Sudan Crisis to Am Dafok, Urgently Require Assistance

More than 15,000 people—including approximately 4,000 Central African returnees—had fled Sudan to the Central African Republic (CAR) as of June 23, exacerbating the humanitarian situation in a region already facing significant need, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Prior to the outbreak of conflict in neighboring Sudan in mid-April, the UN projected approximately 3.4 million people would require humanitarian assistance across CAR in 2023, and the influx of refugees and returnees further strains vulnerable populations' ability to access emergency relief commodities, food, housing, livelihood opportunities, and other basic resources. In response, UNHCR issued the 2023 Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan and the broader UN revised the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for CAR in May, requesting \$68.3 million more than the initial HRP released in January sought to meet the needs of newly displaced populations and host communities. USAID/BHA announced \$8 million in additional humanitarian assistance on May 19 to support the Government of CAR (CARG) in responding to the impacts of the Sudan crisis. On June 19, State/PRM announced an additional \$6.1 million in humanitarian assistance in CAR to respond to the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and people affected by conflict in Sudan.

The majority of new arrivals are sheltering in Vakaga Prefecture's Am Dafok town in northern CAR, where the May-to-November rainy season is severely impeding roadways, hampering the delivery of critical food, shelter, and WASH assistance. As a result, community leaders, CARG, and the UN urged refugees and returnees to relocate to Korsi Site, a displaced persons camp in Vakaga's capital city of Birao. State/PRM partner UNHCR and its partners have relocated approximately 1,000 newly arrived refugees and returnees away from insecure border areas to Korsi, as of June 30; however, relief actors have expressed concern the remaining population in Am Dafok could experience a severe lack of critical resources in the coming months.

Approximately 2.4 Million People Projected to Face Acute Food Insecurity From April to August

An estimated 2.4 million people—nearly 40 percent of CAR's population—are expected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity across the country between April and August, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.³ Of these, more than 620,000 individuals are likely to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity during the same period. Climatic shocks such as dry spells and flooding, persistent insecurity, and rising food prices continue to exacerbate food insecurity conditions across the country. Poor road conditions in CAR's central, northern, northwestern, and southeastern prefectures are also expected to reduce access to markets and adversely affect agricultural activities and livelihood opportunities, while the presence of armed groups—which control large areas and engage in the theft of crops, livestock, and other assets—further constrains humanitarian access to populations in need of food assistance, IPC reports. Additionally, the growing presence of explosive devices in CAR's northwestern and western regions is expected to continue limiting food-insecure populations' access to fields, livelihood opportunities, and market supplies, as well as hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid.

USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) has warned the Sudan crisis may heighten

³ IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

acute food insecurity in CAR, with the number of food-insecure individuals in CAR—particularly in the country’s northern region along the border with Sudan—projected to increase exponentially by the end of August in the absence of adequate humanitarian assistance. IPC projections—which were released before the onset of the Sudan crisis—already projected Am Dafok to experience Emergency levels of acute food insecurity between April and August before the influx of refugees and returnees prompted the sharp surge in food needs. In addition, UNHCR reports that insecurity along the CAR–Sudan border has disrupted critical supply routes and resulted in a sharp increase in the cost of basic commodities. In Vakaga, which relies on Sudan as the main supplier of food staples in several localities, prices have doubled for items such as millet and sugar since April, UNHCR reports.

Large-Scale Displacement From Chad to Lim-Pendé and Ouham Heightens Existing Needs

Thousands of Chadians fleeing armed violence arrived in Lim-Pendé’s Paoua sub-prefecture and Ouham’s Markounda sub-prefecture in northwestern CAR during May, according to the UN. Before May, an estimated 464,000 people were already in need of assistance in Lim-Pendé in 2023, representing a 34 percent compared with 2022, the UN reports. The new arrivals—who are mostly sheltering within the host community—will likely struggle to access already limited food, health, and WASH resources, exacerbating humanitarian needs in the areas. Additionally, the uptick in violence targeting civilians since the end of 2022 due to the presence of armed actors in Chad continues to raise significant protection concerns for populations along the border, relief actors report.

488,000 People Remain Internally Displaced in CAR as Insecurity Generates Continued Humanitarian Need

Ongoing insecurity across CAR continues to generate displacement, including more than 3,300 individuals in April alone, primarily driven by conflict in Haut Mboumou, Ombella M’Poko, and Ouham prefectures, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. In May, clashes between non-state armed actors in Vakaga’s Gordil and Ndah villages prompted more than 2,600 individuals to flee to nearby areas, the UN reports. Earlier in the month, armed clashes in eastern CAR’s Haut Mbomou’s Mboki locality resulted in an unknown number of civilian deaths and injuries, according to regional media. In response, MINUSCA peacekeeping forces have increased their presence in Mboki to protect civilians from further armed attacks and subsequent protection violations. As of late June, citizens, humanitarian workers, and public officials remained at a high risk of experiencing armed group-initiated violations, contributing to the unstable security environment in CAR.

In total, more than 488,000 people remained internally displaced in CAR as of April 30, according to UNHCR. The majority of IDPs—nearly 360,000 individuals—reside in host communities, with nearly 129,000 individuals sheltering in IDP sites as of the same date. The total number of IDPs has decreased by an estimated 25 percent since the same time in 2022, as more than 300,000 previously displaced people returned to their areas of origin across CAR between January and December 2022, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). However, the majority of returnees remained in urgent need of humanitarian aid as of April, with IOM estimating that 30 percent of returnee households countrywide remain unable to meet their basic needs and require food, livelihood, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance.

KEY FIGURES



5

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting emergency food assistance in FY 2023



7

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting health and nutrition activities



2

USG-funded partners supporting critical logistics operations



6

USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers; locally and regionally procured food; U.S.-sourced rice, split peas, and vegetable oil; and vouchers redeemable for food in local markets—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including host communities, IDPs, refugees, and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports NGO partners to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations across the country. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partners provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood rehabilitation for CAR’s most vulnerable households.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports NGO partners to conduct supplementary feeding programs for children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women by creating community referral pathways to identify and treat cases of malnutrition. Through the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), USAID/BHA also provides emergency nutrition assistance to children, mothers, and caregivers. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports NGOs to provide health assistance, including diagnostic treatments, the operation of mobile clinics, and referral services for disease and injury. USAID/BHA NGO partners also provide essential medical commodities and training to community responders and clinics.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. For instance, due to insufficient road access across the country, USAID/BHA supports the UN Humanitarian Air Service to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across CAR, and to provide air service to NGO partners. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common logistics and storage management for response organizations. USAID/BHA has also funded efforts to improve logistics platforms in CAR’s capital city of Bangui to strengthen the response capabilities of UNICEF-managed RRM partners, enabling relief actors to quickly dispatch supplies to crisis-affected areas.

WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to populations in need across CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed RRM, which delivers WASH assistance through the construction of latrines, distribution of hygiene kits, organization of hygiene awareness sessions, and rehabilitation of water points throughout CAR. State/PRM-supported activities rehabilitate clean water sources and support water distribution systems within vulnerable communities.



5

USG-funded partners supporting protection activities

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners continue to implement protection programs for CAR's most vulnerable populations by bolstering child protection services; conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks; delivering emergency case management and referral services for survivors of gender-based violence; and providing individual psychosocial support services. USG partners support livelihood activities for conflict-affected populations in CAR, including providing agricultural inputs and training to bolster economic stability and food security.



3

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting shelter and settlements in FY 2023

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports NGOs and UN agencies in providing individualized shelter assistance to IDPs, returnees, and conflict-affected host communities in CAR. USAID/BHA partners distributed emergency shelter kits and improved IDP CCCM services in FY 2022. Moreover, USAID/BHA supported IOM—the co-lead of the CAR CCCM Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—in pre-positioning emergency shelter kits throughout the country.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed alliance advanced across CAR in opposition to then-President François Bozizé. On March 24, 2013, Séléka fighters entered Bangui, effectively seizing control of the country and triggering a period of widespread violence. Security conditions deteriorated further in December 2013, when clashes erupted between the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups composed of armed fighters that opposed ex-Séléka forces.
- Following a nearly three-year transitional period, CAR held presidential elections in December 2015 and February 2016, resulting in the election of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, who assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- After more than six years of conflict, the CARG and 14 armed groups signed the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation on February 6, 2019.
- On January 18, 2021, the Constitutional Court validated the results of the December 27, 2020, election, resulting in President Touadéra assuming a second term in office. Leading up to and during the election, armed groups aligned with former President Bozizé, whom the Constitutional Court had determined ineligible for candidacy, made a concerted effort to disrupt voting and seize major urban areas.
- An outbreak of election-related violence began in December 2020 between armed groups from the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), CARG, MINUSCA, and bilateral security forces supporting the CARG. Conflict exacerbated the widespread deterioration of humanitarian conditions throughout the following year, including numerous human rights violations attributed to the presence of armed groups.
- On October 15, 2021, President Touadéra declared a unilateral ceasefire, which was agreed to by all but two of the parties to the conflict, including the CPC.

- On October 4, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Mahoney renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2023 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹²

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA³			
CAR			
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouaka	\$749,960
Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA)	Health, Nutrition	Haut-Mbomou	\$1,500,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Bangui, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pendé	\$3,500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bocaranga, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,800,000
Handicap	Logistics Support	Basse-Kotto, Ouaka	\$1,800,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IOM	ERMS, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide, Haute-Kotto, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham-Fafa	\$11,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Protection	Bamingui-Bangoran, Nana-Grébizi	\$200,000
Mentor	Health	Ouham-Fafa	\$799,021
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers and Vouchers for Food, Protection, WASH	Ouaka	\$4,000,000
Oxfam	WASH	Haute-Kotto, Ouham-Fafa	\$850,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers and Vouchers for Food, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Basse-Kotto	\$5,000,000
UN Development Program	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$600,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Mambere-Kadei, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaere, Vakaga	\$23,986,456
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers and Vouchers for Food	Countrywide	\$15,000,000

	Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers and Vouchers for Food, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Mbomou, Ouaka	\$3,566,279
Program Support			\$13,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$88,364,716
STATE/PRM			
CAR			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,300,000
Regional ⁴			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$3,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$20,900,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$109,264,716

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 30, 2023.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ USAID/BHA funding in Central African Republic benefitting displaced people from Sudan is also reported in the USG Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

⁴ This total includes funding for Central Africans in CAR and neighboring countries and excludes FY 2023 State/PRM funding for the Sudan Emergency Response in CAR, as this funding is reported in the USG Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)